

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for finding documents which relate to a portion of a temporal document, comprising:

(a) in response to a signal of interest at a particular time during the temporal document, identifying a temporal range of the temporal document for which related documents are to be found, the signal of interest indicating interest in a sequence of material presented over the temporal range;

(b) selecting text associated with the sequence of material presented over the temporal range of the temporal document;

(c) finding the related documents by use of information retrieval techniques as applied to the selected text,

wherein the related documents are selected from a collection of documents according to scores associated with the documents, said scores for each document based on a summation of term scores for at least a subset of the terms of the selected text, the term score of a term is weighted according to a temporal position of the term within the temporal range.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the temporal document is video or audio material.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the video material is stored on a video server.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the selected text is determined by application of speech recognition techniques to the audio component of the temporal range of the temporal document.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the selected text is the closed-captioned text associated with the temporal range of the temporal document.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the temporal document includes text.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the document text appearing to the user varies with time and the selected text is included within the temporal range of the temporal document.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the document text includes news bulletins, weather, sports scores or stock transaction or pricing information.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the related documents are accessed through a network.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, further including selecting the related documents from among a collection of documents which may be accessed through the network, by utilizing databases comprising information about the collection.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein evaluating documents in the collection includes accessing compressed document surrogates.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein related documents are selected from the collection by a server which is distinct from the server which receives the signal of interest.

14. (Currently amended) A device for finding documents which relate to a portion of a temporal document, comprising:

a computer system having a storage medium containing instructions for controlling the computer system to:

(a) identify a temporal range of the temporal document for which related documents are to be found, in response to a signal of interest at a particular time during the temporal document, the signal of interest indicating interest in a sequence of material presented over the temporal range;

(b) select text associated with the sequence of material presented over the temporal range of the temporal document;

(c) find the related documents by use of information retrieval techniques as applied to the selected text,

wherein the related documents are selected from a collection of documents according to scores associated with the documents, said scores for each document based on a summation of term scores for at least a subset of the terms of the selected text, the term score of a term is weighted according to a temporal position of the term within the temporal range.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the temporal document is video or audio material.

16. (Original) The device of claim 15, wherein the video material is stored on a video server.

17. (Previously presented) The device of claim 15, wherein the selected text is determined by application of speech recognition techniques to the audio component of the temporal range of the temporal document.

18. (Previously presented) The device of claim 15, wherein the selected text is the closed-captioned text associated with the temporal range of the temporal document.

19. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the temporal document includes text.

20. (Previously presented) The device of claim 19, wherein the document text appearing to the user varies with time and the selected text is included within the temporal range of the temporal document.
21. (Original) The device of claim 20, wherein the document text includes news bulletins, weather, sports scores or stock transaction or pricing information.
22. (Previously presented) The device of claim 15, wherein the related documents are accessed through a network.
23. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22, the storage medium further including additional instructions for controlling the computer system to select the related documents from among a collection of documents which may be accessed through the network, by utilizing databases comprising information about the collection.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Original) The device of claim 23, wherein evaluating documents in the collection includes accessing compressed document surrogates.
26. (Original) The device of claim 23, wherein related documents are selected from the collection by a server which is distinct from the server which receives the signal of interest.
27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the temporal range precedes the particular time of the signal of interest.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each temporal position within the temporal range is weighted equally.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the weight of each temporal position within the temporal range increases from a beginning point of the range to a second point of the range, is weighted equally from the second point of the range to a third point of the range, and decreases from the third point of the range to an end point of the range.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each temporal position within the temporal range is weighted according to a discrete two stage exponential function.

31. (Previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the temporal range precedes the particular time of the signal of interest.

32. (Previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein each temporal position within the temporal range is weighted equally.

33. (Previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the weight of each temporal position within the temporal range increases from a beginning point of the range to a second point of the range, is weighted equally from the second point of the range to a third point of the range, and decreases from the third point of the range to an end point of the range.

34. (Previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein each temporal position within the temporal range is weighted according to a discrete two stage exponential function.

35. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the temporal range is defined by the particular time of the signal of interest and a second time that is different from the particular time.

36. (Previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the temporal range is defined by the particular time of the signal of interest and a second time that is different from the particular time.

37. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

(a) in response to a signal of interest at a particular time during a temporal document, identifying a portion of the temporal document for which related documents are to be found, the signal of interest indicating interest in a sequence of material;

(b) basing the identification of the portion of the temporal document on the particular time and at least one point in time preceding the particular time;

(c) selecting text associated with the sequence of material presented over the portion of the temporal document;

(d) finding the related documents by use of information retrieval techniques as applied to the selected text,

wherein the related documents are selected from a collection of documents according to scores associated with the documents, said scores for each document based on a summation of term scores for at least a subset of the terms of the selected text, the term score of a term is weighted according to an amount of time in which the term precedes the particular time.